

## STANDISH MAXIMUM CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AND SALVATION ARMY HELP PRISONERS WHO MAX OUT

The Standish Maximum Correctional Facility (SMF) and the Salvation Army met in the spring to work together on a pilot program geared toward helping prisoners who are discharging on their maximum sentence from the Michigan Department of Corrections. ADW Cary Walker and A/ADW Shelley King coordinated the initial meetings with Correctional Ministries Director Stephen Johnson of the Salvation Army and developed a committee of SMF staff to help determine appropriate programming needs of the discharging population.

Standish, a Level V security facility houses high-risk prisoners. Those who discharge from a maximum security facility generally may not have access to the same tools/resources as prisoners who actively participate the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) and parole into the community from an ReEntry facility.

As MPRI helps prisoners reintegrate into the community upon their parole by starting to prepare them for that time from the day they enter prison, the Phase I Life Skills Program focuses on prisoners who are discharging from a maximum security facility six months prior to their discharge date. Eligible candidates are both members of the general population as well as administrative segregation.



*Correctional Ministries Director Stephen Johnson delivering programming to administrative segregation prisoners.*

This programming will provide positive life skills information and valuable resources from the Salvation Army, volunteers and public businesses to assist the prisoner in obtaining a successful and productive life outside the prison system at virtually no cost to the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Through this program, the Standish Maximum Correctional Facility and the Salvation Army will make a difference in changing the life of a prisoner who has been incarcerated for years, to become an effective citizen in our community. As Warden Thomas Birkett has stated, "If we help only one prisoner, this program is worth our time and effort."

The Salvation Army's willingness to work together with Standish Maximum Correctional Facility to help prisoners who are maxing out on their sentence is a positive step towards a successful outcome for both the prisoner and the community, with an ultimate goal of reducing recidivism.

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**SALVATION ARMY, from page 1**

The Phase I Life Skills programming consists of:

- Dealing with Government Issues - Instructions on filling out forms for SSI, Medicaid/Medicare etc.
- Housing – Applying for housing; Renting/buying; Obstacles to overcome.
- Employment – Job networking: Seeking employment; Maintaining a job; Interviewing; Dealing with prospective employer over sensitive issues.
- Evaluating Skills – Learning abilities of what they can and cannot do.
- Résumé – Writing an impressive work history.
- Relationships – Recognizing the need for meaningful relationships. Building on those relationships.
- Family – Reuniting and bonding with family; When NOT to reunite.
- Fatherhood – Assuming the role of father and head of the household. Endeavoring to be that much needed role model.
- Support/Mentoring – Being involved with the right group or individuals.
- Dealing with Emotions – Anger management and other emotions; Realizing that most emotions are a choice.
- Community Living – Re-entering as a benefit to the community; Building trust.
- Cultural and Social Expectations – The state the prisoner has left has changed and what now to expect.
- Medical – Medical resources; Continuing the medication; The need for healthy living.
- Financial – Financial dilemma; Budgeting; Handling credit; Maintaining a bank account.
- Almost There – Entering the unknown; Is what they hear or see on T.V. really true?

Upon completion of the Phase I Program and discharging from SMF, the prisoner is encouraged to continue on to Phase II of the program, presented courtesy of the Salvation Army. This portion of the program provides continued programming, transitional housing, and family reunification. In addition, the discharging prisoner will receive expense voucher for \$200.00 to be used at a Salvation Army Thrift Store to purchase clothing and household necessities.



The Salvation Army's programming supplements re-entry initiatives and helps offenders who are in need of ongoing programming upon release. Because discharged prisoners are not supervised by the MDOC, programming provided by other agencies is vital to their success in the community.

For more information on re-entry programming offered to prisoners through the Michigan Department of Corrections, please visit:

[http://www.michigan.gov/corrections/0,1607,7-119-9741\\_33218---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/corrections/0,1607,7-119-9741_33218---,00.html)

or

<http://www.michpri.com>





## CAMP KITWEN WORK CREW IMPROVES STATE PARK

Corrections Officer Lee Jurva leads a prisoner work crew that is making a difference in the Porcupine Mountains State Park. His crew is creating a handicap accessible viewing area and boardwalk overlooking the Lake of the Clouds. Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer Bill Burrows, who is in charge of the project, says the Lake of the Clouds gets about 200,000 visitors a year and access for the handicapped is a must.



*Camp Kitwen Work Crew Officer Lee Jurva enjoys seeing the facility upgrades completed by his prisoner work crew.*

The park currently has a paved trail to one viewing area and boardwalk that leads to another viewing area. The new boardwalk with 2 additional viewing areas will connect the two existing sites. The construction is in compliance with ADA standards and will include special viewing "windows" for people in wheel chairs. Since traditional railings are in the line of site for those in wheel chairs; the window will provide them the same view as anyone else observing the beautiful scenery.

While the project sounds pretty easy, there are several challenges. The crew works on the edge of a rock cliff and the soil on the mountain is

compacted clay. Digging holes 42 inches deep and 3 feet around is slow going. However, this type of work is nothing new to Camp Kitwen work crews who, in 2005, built the original boardwalk to ADA standards.



*A prisoner places a post into the new boardwalk and viewing area. Lake of the Clouds and a blue sky, perfectly accented by clouds, in the background*

The Porcupine Mountains State Park is not immune from the state's budget crisis. Their staff has been cut from 18 to 12 people, including skilled trades persons and maintenance staff. The Camp Kitwen work crew helps fill that void by bringing skills and a work ethic that delivers updated facilities at a reasonable price.

## MAP CONFERENCE IS COMING

The 12th annual Minority Advisory Panel Conference is coming to the Holiday Inn - South Lansing on October 10, 2008. The conference will run from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM and will emphasize "Recognizing Diversity - Embracing Change: make it Happen!"

The cost is \$55 or \$60 after October 1. If you are interested in attending or want more information, please contact Rhonda VanHurley-Wilson at [wilsonrd@michigan.gov](mailto:wilsonrd@michigan.gov) or 517-373-3654.







## SECC CAMPAIGN ASKS YOU TO “GIVE WHAT YOU LIVE”

The Michigan Department of Corrections is pleased to support the State Employees Charitable Campaign again in 2008. Our employees have always been counted on to support SECC and will continue to show their generous spirit in these difficult economic times when donations to worthwhile charities have an even greater effect on supporting those in need.

Ken Theis, Director of Information Technology and Chairperson of the 2008 SECC Campaign shares this message.

“As the chair of this year’s State Employees Charitable Campaign (SECC), I would like to thank the many state employees who have supported the campaign in the past. The 2008 campaign brings with it a sense of excitement and enthusiasm as we look for alternative ways to give during a struggling economy. As a state employee, you have the unique opportunity to make the 2008 campaign theme, ‘Give What You Live,’ a reality. Through contributions, volunteerism, and advocacy, state employees can positively impact the citizens in need of our help in Michigan.

“One of the many ways to contribute in conjunction with this year’s theme is to mentor in Michigan communities. State employees have the opportunity to utilize their community service work hours to make an impact; whether you mentor a child, volunteer at a food bank, or provide respite care for families in need, there are all kinds of creative ways to assist our Michigan residents.

“The campaign began September 15 and runs through October 17. Thank you in advance for your continued support. Please join me in supporting our great state where, as a state employee and a citizen, you have the opportunity to ‘Give What You Live’.”

Employees of the Michigan Department of Corrections influence so many lives in so many ways. We support each other, our communities, and our schools. We get involved in civic groups and community activism and we are a leader in our charitable giving through SECC. 2008 gives us another chance to lead the way.





## QUITTER'S CORNER



In February 2009, the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) will become tobacco-free inside its correctional facilities. That means only about five months remain to ensure that both prisoners and staff assimilate the change.

Employees and prisoners have a range of concerns related to the initiative and the department recognizes those concerns. That's why there has been a thoughtful, well-developed plan and process implemented to address those concerns.

The plan includes employees and prisoners being offered tobacco cessation programming, staged reductions in tobacco sales in the prisoner stores, as well as an ongoing campaign to educate employees, prisoners, and facility visitors of the change.

While the tobacco ban in Michigan has yet to take effect, positive results from the initiative are starting to be realized. Fewer staff and prisoners are using tobacco products, and there is a greater emphasis on promoting healthy living. Also, evidence from states who have enacted a ban suggests that prisoner violence/staff assaults do not rise significantly during this process. Over 25 other states have instituted a tobacco ban in place within their correctional facilities without any major disruptions in correctional operation.

The MDOC has a comprehensive plan that addresses virtually all of the major issues associated with implementing this ban. The department and its dedicated staff are committed to ensuring that the tobacco ban goes into place without any disruptions to the daily operation of its correctional facilities. In February 2009, the MDOC will move toward a healthier and tobacco-free environment.



## FOR THE HEALTH OF IT

While it may be hard to believe, flu season is approaching again. As we start staying inside more and have greater contact with others who may be ill, we expose ourselves to those nasty little viruses that make life miserable.



You can limit the risk by getting vaccinated. Flu shots are being offered to employees throughout the state, so check with your personnel officer today to see where they are offered near you. Grandview Plaza will offer the flu shot on Monday, October 6 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the 1st Floor Human Resource Conference Room. If you are interested, please call Kyle at (517) 335-6384 to schedule an appointment. Most insurance plans are covering the vaccination free of charge. Please bring your state sponsored insurance card and wear a shirt or top that will allow for easy access to the upper arm.

Flu shots are recommended if you fit into one of these categories:

- Adults 50 years or older
- All children aged 6 - 23 months
- People of any age with chronic medical conditions (such as heart or lung disease, transplant recipients, or persons with AIDS)
- All women who will be pregnant during the influenza season
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities
- Health-care workers involved in direct patient care
- Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts

Some people experience side-effects. People with egg allergies should not receive the vaccine. Other reported side-effects include some soreness at the injection site and mild headache or low-grade fever for about a day after getting the vaccine. Get vaccinated and protect yourself from serious sickness later.





## SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR NAL WINDOW

Standardization is coming!! That may or may not be a good thing for many department employees who are used to having all of their software accessed through their Novell Application Launcher (NAL) window.

One thing is certain. It means big changes for the MDOC. Standardization means that computerized functions can be more easily maintained and repaired. It also allows for greater flexibility in how server space is used, shared and allocated.



Some of the changes coming in the near term include:

- Discontinuance of the NAL window. Users will access programs through their Start button and programs menu.
- Statewide anti-virus platform.
- Server and e-mail login standardization. This may require a new e-mail address for users.

There will be a transition period where the old e-mail still functions.

- Automated backups at all sites rather than manual tape backups that occur at some offices. This will ensure that data is not lost.
- 24/7 remote monitoring will allow for faster response times to issues that occur during off-hours.
- File/print servers will have inter-agency capability allowing for greater flexibility and utilization of server storage space.

All of these improvements will result in a better user experience, greater efficiency, and less computer-issue related down time. For more information on the process you can visit:

<http://connect.michigan.gov/portal/site/mdit> and then from the menu bar selecting Projects >> Statewide >> M1 ADOPT Migration >> DOC.

## A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BY JOHN C. CORDELL

On my way back from a recent trip to metro Detroit, I stopped at a sandwich shop for lunch. Upon entering, I realized that some pretty nice music was playing. Then I realized it was live music. This sandwich shop had actually hired someone to entertain their guests during lunch, and he was really good at his job. My mood prior to that was pretty ornery, but listening for just a few minutes while I ate gave me the energy and focus to change my mood and my perspective. Something as simple as some good live music made the rest of my day better. For me, music helps enact emotional change.

My point is that you control your moods, your actions, and your behaviors, but sometimes you need that external stimulus to kick-start the change. For me, music does that. For you, it may be something else, but whatever it is, identify it and then use it to help you find a happier, more well-balanced place in your life.







*PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE*



## UPDATE: CHAPLAIN SWIMS MACKINAC STRAITS

On Labor Day weekend, Pine River Correctional Facility Chaplain Ed Holsworth's dream of swimming the Mackinac Straits became reality. The swim was part of an effort to raise money for his two grandsons who both have hereditary hearing loss and need expensive hearing implants in order to hear at near normal levels.

To help raise the money, people made donations in support of Ed's adventurous swim. So on Saturday, August 30, 2008, at about 4 AM, Ed began his swim across the Straits of Mackinac. He would start on the Upper Peninsula just west of the Mackinac Bridge, and swim over four miles, passing under the bridge, to Lighthouse Park just east of the bridge on the lower peninsula.



With a support boat along side, Ed entered the 62 degree water and began swimming in near-perfect conditions. But, in a foreshadowing of difficulties to come, Ed fought through the 4 foot wake of a freighter that passed by during the first hour of the swim. Ed continued on, crossing under the bridge and feeling pretty good.

Then the wind and waves picked up. Fighting 3 foot swells and 15 m.p.h. gusts, Ed literally fought for his survival at some points. Water filled his sinuses and he fought to keep his head above the waves just to get his next breath. He began to fatigue. The oxygen that fed his muscles earlier in the swim was now harder to come by. He disappeared under the water and rescuers almost jumped in to get him out. It appeared that just a few hundred yards from shore, his swim would come to an end. Finally, Ed grabbed the boat to rest for a minute. His oldest son leaned over and told him, "Dad look over there under the bridge how far you have come. Now, you see that white shirt there on shore, that is mom waiting for you."

To that encouragement, Ed asked them to drag him back to the bridge where he started to drift and finish the swim. Pushing back into the cold choppy waters under the bridge swimming only on heart, he swam to shore where he collapsed, totally exhausted, into his wife's arms. Ed Holsworth had just swam the Straits of Mackinac in three hours and forty minutes. In doing so, he will be able to give his grandsons the ability to hear, the chance to learn to speak, and the opportunity to enjoy the sounds in our world that so many of us take for granted.

To date, about \$3,700 of the \$12,000 needed for the hearing aids has been raised. Donations are still being accepted through the St. Johns Lions Club, Trust Fund H, P.O. Box 511, St. Johns, MI 48879.





*PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE*



## CHIPPEWA RAISES FUNDS FOR TORCH RUN

Terri Corey-Spiker, an Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor at the Chippewa Correctional Facility, recently organized and hosted the fifth annual Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Fundraising Picnic. Corey-Spiker has been a team captain with LETR for several years. Along with several volunteers, Corey-Spiker, Victoria Weisinger, Gary McLeod, Eric Thomas, Art Derry and Dawn Brown put together another great picnic of burgers and fries, salads and other treats. Year after year the fundraiser has been an enormous success, generating funds for a very worthy cause. This year was no exception. The effort raised a total of \$1,415 from ticket sales and raffle tickets.



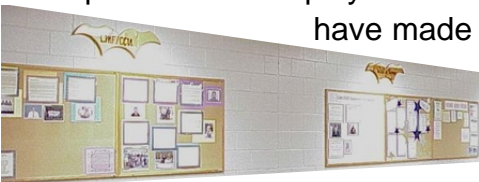
## ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN GET A BOOST FROM OAKS STAFF

Oaks Correctional Facility (ECF) held special \$2 dollar casual Fridays between April and June 2008 in support of the Andre' Bosse Kid's House of Mason County. ECF employees contributed \$344.00 to this charity. All of the programming provided by the organization is free to those they serve. Eighty-seven cents of every dollar donated goes toward child abuse programs and services to help children and families. The donation ensures that the Andre' Bosse Centers, local Child Advocacy Centers will continue to provide safe and child-friendly locations where children can go and receive support when they have been physically or sexually abused. The Kid's House is currently offering the following programs to better serve the immediate needs of neglected, abused and at-risk children in our community: child and family advocates, supervised visitation, parent support groups, forensic interviews, and placement support for foster or adoptive families who have opened their home to a child who has been abused.



## LMF RECOGNIZES STAFF WITH WALL OF FAME

In November of 2003, Alger Maximum Correctional Facility and Camp Cusino implemented a selection process for employees to honor and recognize each other for the positive contributions they have made in the home, in the work place, and most notably in the community.



The focus of the selection process is the positive nature embodied by the employee and how they apply it to support a better quality of life for those they serve. Alger's Wall of Fame allows staff an

opportunity to become aware of and celebrate their positive contributions to each other and the communities they serve. To date, 24 staff have recognized on the Wall of Fame.

